

In the Claims:

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1. (Amended) Protective device for a repeatedly rechargeable electrochemical battery with a battery housing, comprising a hermetically sealed protective housing, a detector element, and at least one switching element which is activatable by the detector element and which prevents at least one of recharging and discharging of the battery when the battery is in [an impermissible] predetermined operating state; wherein the hermetically sealed protective housing has a receiving space for the battery housing and is part of an implantable medical device; [and] wherein the detector element is constructed and arranged to deflect, at least in part, in response to occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery; wherein the switching element is positioned so as to be activated by deflection of at least part of said detector element; and wherein said detector element forms part of the protective housing.

2. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element is a break contact which electrically interrupts a recharging circuit powered by a charging device when said at least one switching element is activated by said deflection of at least part of the detector element in response to said occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery.

3. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element is a break contact which electrically interrupts a consumer circuit which is electrically connected to the battery when said at least one switching element is activated by said deflection of at least part of the detector element in response to said occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery.

4. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element is a make contact which electrically short circuits a recharging circuit powered by a charging device when said at least one switching element is activated by said deflection of at least part of the detector element in response to said occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery.

5. (Amended) Protective device as claimed claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element is a make contact which electrically short circuits the battery when said at least one switching element is activated by said deflection of at least part of the detector element in response to said occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery.

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6. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element irreversibly interrupts a circuit when said at least one switching element is activated by said deflection of at least part of the detector element in response to said occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery..

7. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element reversibly interrupts a circuit when said at least one switching element is activated by said deflection of at least part of the detector element in response to said occurrence of [an impermissible] said predetermined operating state of the battery./

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11. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one switching element is coupled to [an means of] evaluation electronics having means for determining the occurrence of said deflection of at least part of the detector element and for causing activation of said at least one switching element in response to said determination.

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22. (Amended) Protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protective housing has areas which are electrically insulated relative to one another; and wherein the battery has two terminal contacts which make electrical contact with the areas of the protective housing which are electrically insulated relative to one another, the areas of the protective housing which are electrically insulated relative to one another being electrically conductive and being electrically connected to at least one of a recharging circuit and a consumer circuit.

[Claim 28, line 2, change "bio-compatible" to --biocompatible--.